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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/928,451	08/14/2001	Akihiko Okada	Q65793	8140

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EXAMINER

THAI, CANG G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/928,451		OKADA, AKIHIKO	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Cang G. Thai		3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ✓ 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,761,647 (BOUSHY).

As for claim 1, BOUSHY discloses a computer peripheral sales promoting system comprising:

a service status detecting means for detecting a service status of a computer peripheral {Column 11, Lines 10-11, wherein this reads over “a card removal or status request, the customer account is updated 450”};

a customer product information storing means for storing specification information of said computer peripheral and user information which specifies a user of said computer peripheral and also for consecutively updating and storing a service status detected by said service status detecting means are provided in a computer which serves as an upper-level system for said computer {Column 1, Lines 21-24, wherein this reads over “Each identification number has an associated customer account that is stored in the casino's computer system and updated to reflect customer activity”};

a sales promoting terminal for making access to said customer product information storing means to thereby read out said specification information, said user information, and service status {Column 2, Lines 12-16, wherein this reads over "employees at each property with on-line access to the customer data necessary to implement cross-property incentive programs and to provide personalized services to customers, independent of which casino property the customer regularly visits"}.

As for claim 2, BOUSHY discloses a computer peripheral sales promoting system comprising:

a service status detecting means for detecting a service status of a computer peripheral {Column 11, Lines 10-11, wherein this reads over "a card removal or status request, the customer account is updated 450"};

a customer product information storing means for storing specification information of said computer peripheral and user information of said computer peripheral and also for consecutively updating and storing a service status detected by said service status detecting means is provided to said computer peripheral {Column 1, Lines 21-24, wherein this reads over "Each identification number has an associated customer account that is stored in the casino's computer system and updated to reflect customer activity"}; and

a sales promoting terminal for making access to said customer product information storing means to thereby read out said specification information, said user information, and service status {Column 2, Lines 12-16, wherein this reads over "employees at each property with on-line access to the customer data necessary to

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implement cross-property incentive programs and to provide personalized services to customers, independent of which casino property the customer regularly visits”}.

As for claim 3, BOUSHY discloses the computer peripheral sales promoting system according to Claim 1, wherein said computer peripheral is arranged in a network {Column 2, Lines 26-28, wherein this reads over “a local area network (LAN) at each affiliated casino property and a wide area network (WAN) for coupling data among the casino LANs”}.

As for Claim 4, which has same limitations as in Claim 3, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in Claim 3.

As for claim 5, BOUSHY discloses the computer peripheral sales promoting system according to Claim 1, wherein said computer peripheral is comprises a data storing apparatus {Column 4, Lines 60-63, wherein this read over “customer data may be sorted and stored in server 114 according to customer groups segmented by profitability, principal gaming location (property), or other marketing criteria ”}.

As for Claim 6, which has same limitations as in Claim 5, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in Claim 5.

As for Claim 7, which has same limitations as in Claim 5, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in Claim 5.

As for Claim 8, which has same limitations as in Claim 5, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in Claim 5.

As for claim 9, BOUSHY discloses the computer peripheral sales promoting system according to Claim 5, wherein:

said specification information includes at least a disk capacity of said data storing apparatus {Column 4, Lines 64-65, wherein this reads over "customer data in server 112 is stored in a manner that facilitates rapid access by customer ID or name "}; and

said service status detecting means detects a spent disk capacity and a load status of said data storing apparatus as a service status {Column 5, Lines 60-64, wherein this reads over "a customer's betting activity at slot machine 130 is accumulated in SMS 262 until the session is terminated or an account status is requested by CMS 234, at which time the data is transferred to CMS 234 via LAN 120"}.

As for Claim 10, which has same limitations as in Claim 9, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in Claim 9.

As for claim 11, which has same limitations as in Claim 9, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in Claim 9.

As for claim 12, As for Claim 8, which has same limitations as in Claim 9, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in Claim 9.

As for claim 14, which has same limitations as in Claim 2, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in Claim 9.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

I. U.S. Patent:

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- 1) U.S. Patent No. 6,571,285 (GROATH ET AL) is cited to teach providing an integrated service assurance environment for a network,
- 2) U.S. Patent No. 6,813,278 (SWARTZ ET AL) is cited to teach process for submitting and handling a service request in a local service management system, and
- 3) U.S. Patent No. 6,183,362 (BOUSHY) is cited to teach national customer recognition system and method.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cang (James) G. Thai whose telephone number is (571) 272-6499. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CGT
12/26/2005



DENNIS RUHL
PRIMARY EXAMINER